

Statement. It is requested that the Examiner return an initialed Form PTO-1449 from the December 21, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 3, 5-10 and 15-20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 4, 11, 12 and 22-24. Applicants note that claims 22-24 should be allowed as being dependent from allowed claim 9.

Claims 1, 13, 14, 21, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ohta et al. (Ohta), U.S. Patent No. 5,818,482. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ohta fails to disclose an inkjet head with a plurality of ink pressure chambers formed in at least one cavity plate, and a manifold channel formed in at least one manifold plate, as recited in claims 1 and 14.

Ohta discloses an inkjet printing head with an actuator unit 1 and an ink chamber unit 2 (Fig. 1). The ink chamber unit 2 includes ink chambers 17 defined by an oscillation plate 12, an ink passage member 13 and a nozzle plate 16 (Figs. 3 and 23 and col. 5, lines 53-55). The ink passage member 13 is comprised of a lower ink passage member 40 and an upper ink passage member 41 that form the ink chambers 17 (col. 9, lines 43-53). Ohta fails to provide another passage member or plate for the ink passage member 13. Ohta also discloses a fluid resistance portion 42 and a common ink chamber 44 formed by the upper and lower ink passage members 41, 40 (col. 15, lines 22-30 and col. 16, lines 30-33). The fluid resistance portion 42 limits the flow of ink between the common ink chamber 44 and the ink chamber 17 (col. 15, lines 23-30).

Ohta fails to disclose both a manifold plate (from which a manifold channel is formed) and a cavity plate (from which a plurality of ink pressure chambers are formed) because Ohta's ink chambers 17 and common ink chamber 44 are formed by both the ink passage members 40, 41 of the ink passage member 13. In other words, the common ink chamber 44 and the ink chambers 17 are formed by the same upper and lower ink passage

members 41, 40 (i.e., not in different plates). Page 2 of the Office Action identifies Ohta's lower ink passage member 40 as a cavity plate and the ink passage member 13 as a manifold plate. This interpretation is not correct because the ink passage member 13 is comprised of a lower ink passage member 40 and an upper ink passage member 41 (col. 9, lines 46-48).

During the personal interview, Examiner Nguyen identified Ohta's upper ink passage member 41 and lower ink passage member 40 as the at least one cavity plate and the at least one manifold plate as recited in claims 1 and 14. This interpretation is not correct because Ohta's ink chamber 17, fluid resistance portion 42 and common ink chamber 44 are formed by both the upper and lower ink passage members 41, 40. As such, for example, both of the passage members 41, 40 are a cavity plate because both are used to form a plurality of ink pressure chambers. It is improper for the Examiner to select one passage member 41 or 40 as corresponding to the cavity plate and not the other passage member 40 or 41 when Ohta explicitly recites the ink chamber 17 as being formed by both passage members 41, 40.

Ohta also fails to disclose a land block provided in a manifold channel, as recited in claim 1, or a manifold channel formed to be a looped channel, as recited in claims 14 and 21. Page 2 of the Office Action identifies Ohta's fluid resistance portion 42 as the manifold channel of claims 1, 14 and 21. As disclosed in Ohta's Fig. 23, for example, the fluid resistance portion 42 is a straight channel defined by the passage members 40, 41 between the common ink chamber 44 and the ink chamber 17. The fluid resistance portion 42 does not have a land block, as recited in claim 1, and the fluid resistance portion 42 is not a looped channel, as recited in claims 14 and 21. Ohta's separator walls 46a, 46b define the fluid resistance portion 42 and is thus not a land block.

During the personal interview, the Examiner asserted that Ohta's ink chamber 17 can also form a part of the manifold channel. This interpretation is neither correct nor supported by Ohta. The Examiner also identified Ohta's separator walls 46a, 46b as the land block

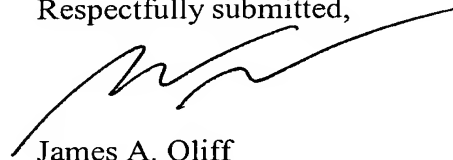
(claim 1) and as structure that defines a looped channel (claims 14 and 21). This is not correct because, as discussed above and the personal interview, Ohta's separator walls 46a, 46b cannot both define the fluid resistance portion 42 and form a land block and the fluid resistance portion 42 is not a looped channel.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 24, 2006

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